Third Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution, including in the marine environment
13 - 19 November 2023, Nairobi, Kenya

Viet Nam Statement for Opening Plenary

Mr. Chair,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Colleagues,

As Viet Nam takes the floor for the first time, I would like to express my delegation’s gratitude to the Government and people of Kenya for their hospitality and excellent hosting of this important event.

Viet Nam associates itself with the Statements made by the Philippines on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Group and Singapore on behalf of COBSEA countries.

I wish to highly appreciate the Chair and the Secretariat for their hard work in compiling the zero draft and synthesis report as a very good basis for the member states to start negotiations here in Nairobi and my delegation is looking forward to working closely with member states during the INC3 meeting this week.

In this spirit, my delegation welcomes and highly appreciates the establishment of three contact groups to facilitate member states’ discussions and my delegation wishes to emphasize importance of the State-driven approach during the whole process.

As the zero draft text has not reflected the full views of member states, Viet Nam hopes that views and inputs will be included during the discussions under the contact groups so when we depart Nairobi on November 19 we will have a more balanced draft text for further negotiations in 2024.

As one of the very first member states that expressed support for building this instrument, alongside Ecuador, Germany and Ghana, Viet Nam sees the important role of plastic in society but also views plastic pollution as a global problem that impacts our environment, ecosystem and health. Therefore, a global and comprehensive response must be adopted.

However, differences in circumstances, development and capabilities should be addressed in the future instrument. My delegation wishes to support the proposal for inclusion of the principles of equity, common but differentiated responsibilities and respective
capacities in the context of just and inclusive transition, circular economy, poverty eradication and sustainable development.

We are of the view that this instrument should not be used to disguise new trade barriers to the detriment of developing countries.

Finally, my delegation views that ambitious actions must go hand in hand with the means of implementation. Hence, the issues of finance, technology transfer and capacity building for developing countries must be addressed in an appropriate manner as other elements in the instrument, for better ensuring the achievement of global ambitious targets for adequately addressing the problem of plastic pollution.

I thank you Mr Chair.